working conditions. In this manner, the Scheme helps in strengthening the SSIs so that they can face the competition from increasing imports.

Comprehensive legislation of SSIs

439. SHRI R.K.ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring a comprehensive legislation to promote and remove the bottlenecks in the growth of SSIs;

(b) if so, by when such a biil is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the constraints in doing so and what other measurs are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A draft Bill, viz., "Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill, 2005" is under active consideration of the Government. Attempts are underway to introduce the Bill in Parliament during the on-going session.

Delay in payment to SSIs

440. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whetter Government are aware that small scale industries in the country are gravely suffering from the delay in payments held by the large organization;and

(b) if so, the action that has been taken by Government to punish these defaulting organizations along with the details for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Interest on Delayed Payments to Small and Ancillary Industrial